



## USACE Ecosystem Restoration and Stewardship – Preserving, Restoring and Protecting America's Natural Resources

USACE's Civil Works environmental program focuses on two key areas: ecosystem restoration and stewardship of project lands. The purpose of the ecosystem restoration program is to restore degraded ecosystem structure, function and natural processes to a more natural condition. The mission of the stewardship program is to manage, conserve and/or protect the natural and cultural resources at USACE operating water resource projects, consistent with project authorities and sustainability practices.

### Funding

The President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2014 (FY14) includes \$4.826 billion in gross discretionary funding for the Civil Works program of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) including \$449 million for ecosystem restoration and \$102 million for the stewardship program. The Budget was developed by placing the highest priority on studies or projects that contribute to the cost-effective restoration of regionally or nationally significant ecosystems where USACE is uniquely well suited. The Budget supports several high priorities of the Administration, most notably through five large ecosystems designated for enhanced interagency collaboration: California Bay Delta, Chesapeake Bay, Everglades, Great Lakes, and Gulf Coast. Additionally, the Budget provides for restoration work in five ecosystems designated as Civil Works priorities: Puget Sound, Missouri River, Columbia-Snake, Upper Mississippi River Restoration, and Hudson-Raritan. In these ecosystems, USACE coordinates closely with other Federal agencies to synchronize activities and leverage the Federal investment. This program also includes funding for compliance with existing biological opinions for the Columbia-Snake and Missouri River Basins. USACE stewardship has a significant geographic impact, with management of: 12 million acres or approximately 8 percent of Federal acreage east of the Rockies, including 843,000 acres of mitigation lands, and 56,000 miles of shoreline. The budget for the stewardship program will support the completion of seven high priority master plans, production of 15 million fish that mitigate for environmental impacts of the Civil Works projects and the Veterans Curation Program which hires and trains returning veterans.

### Program Objectives

- Ensure healthy and sustainable lands and waters. Healthy ecosystems provide numerous ecological services that contribute to our economy, health and well being.
- Restore degraded ecosystem structure, function and processes to a more natural condition.

### Key Messages

- The President's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget request maintains a strong commitment to the environment.
- Complex environmental problems require long term solutions developed in a collaborative environment.
- All USACE programs are guided by the environmental operating principles.

### Facts & Figures

- During the period FY 2005 through FY 2012, USACE restored approximately 81,200 acres to a less degraded, more natural condition.
- USACE is responsible for stewardship of about 12 million acres of project lands.
- For more information about USACE's environmental programs, visit: <http://cw-environment.usace.army.mil/>.